

Message Text

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FOR ARA,D AND L ONLY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, CI

SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: STATE 64280

1. USG LAWYER ETCHEBERRY TALKED TWICE TO MIGUEL SCHWEITZER MARCH 14. THE LATTER EXPLAINED GOC POSITION AS FOLLOWS: MICHAEL TOWNLEY AND ARMANDO FERNANDEZ LARIOS DID IN FACT GO TO ASUNCION AND APPLY FOR VISAS, BUT DID NOT GO TO THE U.S. THE "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL" NAMES WERE THEN ASSUMED BY TWO OTHER PERSONS -- BOTH CHILEAN ARMY OFFICERS -- FOR THE CHILEAN OFFICIAL PASSPORTS AND VISA APPLICATIONS IN SANTIAGO. THE LATTER TWO TRAVELED TO THE U.S. ON A SECURITY MATTER TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THE LETELIER ASSASSINATION. TOWNLEY AND FERNANDEZ DID NOT GO AND, ACCORDING TO SCHWEITZER, FERNANDEZ HAS NEVER TRAVELED TO THE U.S.

2. SCHWEITZER THEN SPELLED OUT THE FOLLOWING PLANNED GOC SCENARIO FOR PRODUCING THE "WILLIAMS" AND "ROMERAL" PASSPORTS, AND THE FOUR PERSONS -- BUT NOTING THAT THE GOC HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE TOWNLEY: (A) THE GOC IS PREPARED NOW TO TURN OVER THE TWO PASSPORTS TO CHIEF INVESTIGATING JUDGE LIBEDINSKY; (B) IT WOULD THEN ARRANGE FOR LIBEDINSKY TO MEET WITH ALL FOUR (AS-

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SUMING TOWNLEY CAN BE FOUND) IN SECRET -- I.E., AWAY FROM THE COURT AND FROM ANY PUBLICITY; (C) CRIMINAL COURT JUDGE GONZALEZ (CHARGED WITH THE LETTERS ROGATORY) ACCOMPANIED BY ETCHEBERRY WOULD THEN HAVE A SIMILAR MEETING WITH THE FOUR, ON THE BASIS OF WHICH GONZALEZ WOULD COMPLETE HER WORK ON THE LETTERS ROGATORY REQUEST; AND FINALLY, (D) THE FOUR WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONING BY PROPPER AND/OR SCHERRER.

3. THE GOC EXPECTS THAT THE RESULT OF THIS PROCESS WOULD BE A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY PROPPER OR OTHER APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIAL THAT THE LETTERS ROGATORY REQUEST HAD BEEN COMPLIED WITH IN FULL. HOWEVER THE GOC WOULD NOT RELEASE THE NAMES OF THE TWO ARMY OFFICERS WHO ACTUALLY TRAVELED TO THE U.S., NOR THE REASON FOR THEIR TRIP -- CITING REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

4. ETCHEBERRY INFORMED SCHWEITZER THAT, SO FAR AS HE IS AWARE, THE USG IS NOT ON BOARD FOR THIS SCENARIO, AND THAT IF THE GOC WENT AHEAD WITHOUT OUR CONCURRENCE HE, ETCHEBERRY, WOULD BE OBLIGED TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT MORE NORMAL PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED AND TO PUT THE GOC CASE IN DOUBT. SCHWEITZER ASSURED ETCHEBERRY THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL THE USG CONCURS.

5. ETCHEBERRY BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE THAT PROPPER AND/OR SCHERRER HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION THE FOUR PERSONS BEFORE THEY GO BEFORE LIBEDINSKY AND GONZALEZ: IF THERE ARE HOLES IN THEIR STORIES WE WANT TO GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY HAVE GONE ON RECORD WITH EITHER JUDGE, AND PARTICULARLY IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS OF THE LETTERS ROGATORY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE NEED WASHINGTON VIEWS ON SCENARIO PROPOSED BY SCHWEITZER, DECISION ON WHETHER PROPPER, AS WELL AS SCHERRER, IS TO BE PRESENT FOR STEP (D) (PARA 2 ABOVE), AND
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HOW SOON WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SET UP THAT MEETING. SCHERRER ARRIVES SANTIAGO TONIGHT AND HAS A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MORNING OF MARCH 16 AT CNI.
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